

Symen Van Wickle House  
Easton Turnpike, Franklin Township  
Near New Brunswick, Somerset County, New Jersey  
BOUND BROOK VICINITY

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Symen Van Wicklo House  
Easton Turnpike, Franklin Township  
Near New Brunswick, Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. T. J. Bogan

Date of Erection: About 1722; dining room and kitchen  
wing of later date

Architect:

Builder: Symen Van Wickle

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, brick filled, clapboards except the east elevation of the main house which has original shingles

Interior walls - plaster with exposed beams on older portion, paneling fireplace wall living room

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with overhang on front of the main unit, dormers of later date

Historical Data:

In 1680 John Inians and associates bought from the Indians for Lady Elizabeth Carteret a tract of land

N. J.

18. BouB.v

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on the south side of the Raritan River. It was laid out in five hundred acre lots each with a half mile river frontage. The lots went into the hands of speculators. On May 29, 1703 Evert Van Wickle, Gerardus Beekman, and Leffert Pieterse of Kings County, Long Island, bought from Thomas Cardale of Jamaica for two hundred pounds a four hundred and fifty acre tract; it began at Richard Jones' lot. It is thought that Evert bought out the others. He is also said to have purchased eight hundred acres from William Dockra.

Evert<sup>1</sup> Van Wickelen or Van Wickle, a carpenter, emigrated about 1664 and settled at Flatbush, Long Island. He married in 1690 and had six children; one of these was Symen<sup>2</sup> who married about 1722. The earliest record of Symen in New Jersey is in November 1722 when he was sponsor at a baptism in New Brunswick. He probably settled on his father's tract and built the house at the time of his marriage. Family tradition has it that the house was built by the younger Evert's<sup>3</sup> father; however, the genealogy shows that the younger Evert's father was Symen<sup>2</sup>. The will of Symen dated 1753 and probated in 1755 mentions a son Evert and also mentions his homestead on the Raritan. It is not known which of the children owned the house after Symen, but it probably was Nicholas.

The next knowledge of a sale is in 1795 when Peter Antonides and wife sold to Robert T. Kemble. Antonides probably bought from Dennis Van Duyne. Dennis' father William in his will of 1773 mentions the plantation that he left to his son as having been bought of Matthias Smock and which had belonged to Nicholas Van Wickle.

According to the Somerset County records, in May 1797 the lot where the house stands was purchased by Hendrick Suydam from Robert Kemble. There are two tracts mentioned in this - the first one of 95.2 acres described as lying in the eastern precinct of the

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County of Somerset. We are certain that this is the house piece because a graveyard is mentioned as being accepted and reserved and this appears in every deed from that date to the present. We know also that this tract bordered on the land of the Reverend Abraham Beach. Reverend Beach had married Anne Van Wickle, daughter of Evert<sup>2</sup> who had built a house about the time of his marriage in 1752 on the north part of his grandfather's tract. The Hendrick Suydam who purchased the house was probably the son of another Hendrick Suydam who was a son-in-law of the first Evert Van Wickle. He died somewhere between 1833-1838 leaving three daughters one of whom was married to Nicholas Van Wickle of Monmouth County. This Nicholas was probably a grandson of Symen's<sup>2</sup> son Nicholas<sup>3</sup>. The two other daughters sold their share to Nicholas.

On August 25, 1862 the property was sold by Nicholas and his wife to John W. Brooks. At that time the tract was mentioned as a plantation and it contained one hundred and sixty-eight acres more or less. There are ten transfers recorded from that date until 1926 when the executors of Edward E. Smalley sold the same one hundred and sixty-eight acres to Michael Hechtman. Hechtman that same year sold the piece with the house and the graveyard to Ellen B. Welsh, Incorporated. Six other transfers are recorded between that date and 1932 when John E. Kreh sold to Catherine M. and Margaret M. Donaldson from whom the present owner Mrs. T. J. Bogan purchased in the past year (1938). This deed is as yet unrecorded.

#### Bibliography:

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Volume 54, Number 2 (April 1936) Page 118

A search of Somerset County court records

*Valter E. Rutt*  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

*received June 1939 - JPT*